

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01

SY-05 USSS-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 FEAE-00

OES-06 AID-05 /095 W

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O R 101359Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4853

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6981

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TU, LY

SUBJECT: TURKISH-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: ISTANBUL 3485

1. SEPTEMBER 10, EMBOFF DISCUSSED TURKISH-LIBYAN RELATIONS WITH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS, SUAT CAKIR, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A SIX-DAY VISIT TO TRIPOLI. CAKIR HAD ANCOMPANIED MINISTER OF STATE HASAN AKSAY (DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY) WHO HAD GONE TO LIBYA AS THE TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBYAN REVOLUTION. DURING THE VISIT HE AND AKSAY MET WITH QADHAFI WHO IMPRESSED CAKIR AS AN UNSTABLE "ADOLESCENT". HE SAID QADHAFI WAS EMBARRASSINGLY VIRULENT IN HIS COMMENTS ABOUT EGYPT AND SADAT.

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2. EMBOFF ASKED CAKIR ABOUT RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT LIBYA HAD DUMPED SEVERAL TONS OF TURKISH CANNED GOODS INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN BECAUSE OF ALLEGED CONTAMINATION. CAKIR CONFIRMED THAT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAD IN FACT DUMPED THE CANNED GOODS, BUT HE SAID THE REASON THE LIBYANS GAVE FOR THEIR ACTION WAS THAT THEY HAD LEARNED THAT THE COMPANY IN TURKEY WHICH HAD CANNED THE FOODSTUFFS WAS AT LEAST PARTLY JEWISH-OWNED. CAKIR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WAS IN FACT TRUE, BUT HE SAID SUCH AN ACTION WAS INDICATIVE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA. HE SAID THE PRIMARY REASON THAT TURKEY IS CULTIVATING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA IS THAT TURKEY RELIES UPON LIBYA FOR 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF ITS OIL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS.

3. EMBOFF SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT ONE CAUSE OF THE RECENT PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES AT THE IPRAS REFINERY HAD BEEN THE FACT THAT LIBYA WAS HOLDING BACK SHIPMENTS OF OIL. CAKIR CONFIRMED THAT, AS A RESULT OF A RECENT LIBYAN DECISION TO REQUIRE A PRIVATE BANK GUARANTEE INSTEAD OF A GOT GUARANTEE, LIBYAN OIL SHIPMENTS HAD BEEN DELAYED. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE REASON FOR THE LIBYAN ACTION, BUT HE DISMISSED OUT OF HAND THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT HAD ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORIST (REFTEL).

4. CAKIR SAID MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND TURKISH WORKERS ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN LIBYA. HE SAID MANY OF THEM ARE UNHAPPY, HOWEVER BOTH BECAUSE OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND BECAUSE OF DECEPTIVE CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS, AND IT HAS BECOME COMMON FOR TURKISH WORKERS TO BREAK THEIR CONTRACTS AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY AFTER ABOUT SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCOUNT ENTIRELY THE CHANCE THAT LIBYA IS ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE IN THE TRIAL OF THE ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORISTS BY INSISTING ON A NEW METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR OIL SHIPMENTS. HOWEVER, SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE AT VARIANCE WITH ITS RECENT SUPPORT OF TURKEY IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THEREFORE, WE ARE INCLINED TO DOUBT A CONNECTION CURRENTLY EXISTS BETWEEN THE SLOWDOWN IN OIL
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SHIPMENTS AND THE ISTANBUL TERRORISTS.
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